

**ICDS for welfare of women and children**

3482. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Integrated Child Development Scheme is proposed to be launched for welfare of women and children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the bias against girl-child still persists in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken to educate people and safeguard the interest of girl-child, with financial allocation made therefor, during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (e) whether rate of adoption of girl-child in the country is far less when compared to China; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken to ensure safety of the adopted female children and to increase the rate of their adoption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been in operation since 1975. The Scheme proposed to be launched during the Eleventh Plan is the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS). The Scheme seeks to provide a comprehensive protection framework for children of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, intensive awareness generation and advocacy programmes for improving the status of the girl child and bring about an attitudinal additional change in the society are being carried out nation-wide since the past few years.

(e) and (f) The rate of adoption of children and their gender-wise breakup of two countries may not be comparable as the socio-economic conditions by the two countries differ. The guidelines issued by the Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) for adoption provide for safeguards of adopted children. The guidelines are reviewed regularly to make them more child friendly as also facilitate their implementation.